Rue Poissonnière

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OUR POSSESSION OF CHRIST.

1.John 5:12 He that hath the Son hath the Life.

Intro. We talk about Life and God as tho we knew a great deal about them. In all honesty af mind and humbleness of spirit we have to confess that Life is still a Great Mystery, still full of contradictions and blind alleys that defy human experience and investigation.

Search thru all history and thru every literature of mankind for the High Water-Mark of Life so far as this world is concerned, we are unquestionably led to the personality of Jesus Christ. Jesus represents the high-water mark of human achievement so far as Life on earth goes.

According to the records Jesus Christ was the embodiment of the forces that make for life, on the one hand, and on the other hand he was beset by the forces that make for death. His was a struggle between life and death. Hatred, contempt, hardened institutionalism, professionalism, the mob-spirit, hysteria, violence-these did their worst and deadliest to destroy Jesus of Nazareth.

Seemingly these forces of evil accomplished their vile intent for the Christ hung upon the Cross-dead. But not so. These could only kill his body. In the very moment of their anticipated victory Jesus triumphd over them all. His spirit cried out,"Father, forgive them, for they onow not what they do." The triumph of Christ upon the Cross was the triumph of Life over Death because it was the triumph of Love over Hate.

When the real history of the late war is written, what will be recorded as the noblest and highest utterance of that dark time? Unquestionably Edith Cavell's last word- purging her spirt of all hate and bitterness and forgiving her enemies. In her extremity Love triumphs.

The real greatness of Abraham Lincoln was not that he was President who put down the rebellion but his magnanimity, his passion to heal wounds, his forgiving spirit and deeds during all the dark years of the Civil War, in short, his heart of love triumphing over all the enemies of Life.

Whatever else we may not know about God, we know that in His Perfect Love He is striving to perfect

human ~~life~~ Life in the triumph of its love over all the forces that make for death-ignorance, fear, hate, lust, selfishness. The Life which was in Christ is the Life of God, eternal life, the life of Goodness, Truth and Love.

"He that hath the Son hath the Life."

We can readily understand how the disciples had a possession of their Master such as we cannot have. They followed him. He was their Master. They lived with him and experienced everything in common with him for three years. And they witnessed his passion and went thru that last parting from him. To the disciples Jesus was a real person of flesh and blood such as we know one another to be. But Christ is no longer visible to our eyes, we cannot walk with him and follow him as did his disciples.

How, then, can we possess Christ for the saving and perfecting of our lives as effectually as did the disciples?

Illustration. The picture of the Literary Society.

Some faces are familiar and instantly suggest their names. Others I can hardly remember, unable to recall the names. Those withwhom I had dealings and had become well acquainted I remember clearly: those with whom I had but a passing and superficial acquaintance I have practically forgotten.

These faces to you mean nothing, except as they might suggest other faces to you that are familiar.

But if I should tell you about these boys that I onew, over and over again in every possible detail so far as I knew them ~~these~~ their faces would take on a new significance to you and their pictures would suggest to you definite personalities.

We have no fotograph of Jesus Christ, but we have a sufficient record of the details of his life and work with which to create within ourselves a consciousness of a definite personality with who we are well acquainted.

1. Read the four gospel accounts repeatedly until every incident recorded is familiar to you.

2. Such familiarity with the accounts of Christ's life will constantly suggest to you his teachings and example, and thru the power of such suggestion you will be led to live your life accordingly.

3. Such an acquaintance with the life of Christ will make it possible for you to imitate him in every way possible.

   a. I your trust in God
   b. In your prayer life.
   c. In your conduct dealing with others.
   d. In your desires and aspirations.
   e. In ~~your~~ the planning of your ~~life's~~ campaign to fight to a successful issue the Battle of Life.